

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 4 and 10 are objected to because of the following informalities: typographical errors. It appears that "they" (claim 4, line 3) was intended to be --the-- and "the" (claim 10, line 3) was intended to be --to the--, which changes will be assumed for purposes of further consideration of the claim, as to the merits, hereinbelow.

Appropriate correction (or clarification) is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Peterson et al. (US Patent No 6,324,522).

In regards to claim 1,

Peterson et al. disclose an inventory online method to provide a virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder to provide improved inventory control, reduce required on site inventory size, and reduce inventory cost comprising the

steps of: determining a maintenance inventory of parts for a manufacturer (see in particular column 4, lines 14-22); providing an online inventory listing of the maintenance inventory (see for example column 6, lines 47-52); connecting the online inventory listing of the maintenance inventory to at least one other source selected from the group consisting of a vendor's inventory, a component manufacturer's inventory, a general market inventory, and a shared inventory from another maintenance inventory holder; compiling the maintenance inventory for the manufacturer including the online inventory listing from the at least one other source to provide the virtually supplemented in-house inventory (see for example (see for example column 13, lines 53-61)).

In regards to claim 2,

Peterson et al. disclose the inventory method according to claim 1 to provide a virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder in including determining a maintenance inventory for the manufacturer by: listing the maintenance inventory by UPC code (see for example column 20, lines 40-42).

In regards to claim 3,

Peterson et al. disclose the inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder including: connecting the online inventory listing of the maintenance inventory to a

vendor's inventory of parts of the determined maintenance inventory of the manufacturer only (see for example column 17, lines 48-57).

In regards to claim 4,

Peterson et al. disclose the inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder wherein they providing the online inventory listing of the maintenance inventory includes: providing an online inventory program (see in particular column 6, lines 47-52).

In regards to claim 5,

Peterson et al. disclose the inventory online method according to claim 4 to provide a virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder includes: providing an online inventory program from an application service provider (see in particular column 6, lines 47-52 and 57-61). Based on the definition of application service provider, as it is understood by those of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, any company that supplies software applications and/or software related services over the internet would qualify as an application service provider. Therefore, based on what is disclosed by Peterson et al, the invention as disclosed in the prior art inherently qualifies as an application service provider.

In regards to claim 6,

Peterson et al. disclose the inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder includes: determining a plurality of maintenance inventory of parts for a plurality of manufacturers; and, compiling the maintenance inventory for the plurality of manufacturers (see for example column 52-57).

In regards to claim 7,

Peterson et al. disclose the inventory online method according to claim 6 to provide a virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder wherein the compiling the maintenance inventory for a plurality of manufacturers further in includes: listing items desired to be shared with other manufacturers and; adjusting the compiled maintenance inventory for parts held in shared inventories (see for example column 14, lines 3-8).

In regards to claim 8,

Peterson et al. disclose the inventory online method according to claim 7 to provide a virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory includes: adjusting the compiled maintenance inventory requirement for identical. parts downward in the maintenance inventories for the plurality of manufacturers (see in particular column 17, lines 11-23).

In regards to claim 9,

Peterson et al. disclose the inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder includes: searching inventories of vendors and component manufactures for desired items (see in particular column 15, lines 16-20).

In regards to claim 10,

Peterson et al. disclose the inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder includes: sending messages related to items the virtually supplemented in-house inventory (see for example column 4, lines 36-42).

In regards to claim 11,

Peterson et al. disclose the inventory online method according to claim 1 to provide a virtually supplemented in-house inventory for the maintenance inventory holder wherein the compiling step further in includes: restricting compiling the maintenance inventory to at least one selected geographic location (see in particular column 8, lines 37-40 and 47-50).

In regards to claim 12,

Peterson et al. disclose an inventory online system comprising: a plurality of manufacturers each requiring a maintenance inventory (see in particular column 4, lines 14-22); an Internet connection to each of the plurality of manufacturers (see for example column 6, lines 47-52); an online inventory program for listing the maintenance inventory of each of the plurality of manufacturers (see in particular column 13, lines 44-51); and, compiling the maintenance inventory for the plurality of manufacturers to provide a virtually supplemented in-house inventory with similar parts of each maintenance inventory virtually shared between the plurality of manufacturers whereby a similar part in one of the plurality of manufacturers is virtually counted to the maintenance inventory of another of the manufacturers without being duplicated in each maintenance inventory (see for example column 17, lines 37-45).

In regards to claim 13,

Peterson et al. disclose the inventory online system according to claim 11 and further comprising: the online inventory program for listing the maintenance inventory of each of the plurality of manufacturers lists the maintenance inventory by UPC code (see for example column 15, lines 35-36).

In regards to claim 14,

Peterson et al. disclose the inventory online system according to claim 11 and further

comprising: compiling the maintenance inventory for the plurality of manufacturers by listing a similar part at one manufacturer on the virtual inventory of another manufacture without having the similar part physically present at both manufacturers (see for example column 48-57).

In regards to claim 15,

Peterson et al. disclose the inventory online system according to claim 11 and further comprising: sending messages between the plurality of manufacturers related to specific items in inventory (see for example column 4, lines 18-26).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The reference Call (US Patent NO 6,154,738) discloses disseminating product information via the internet using universal product codes.

The reference Freeman (US Patent No 6,134,557) discloses a materials and supplies ordering system.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TALIA CRAWLEY whose telephone number is (571) 270-5397. The examiner can be reached Monday to Thursday, eight to five.

6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jerry O'Connor can be reached on (571) 272-6787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval. (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 4176
4/16/2008

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